

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 6, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chittipeddi et al. (US 5,972,179) in view of Kim (US 5,804,501).

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7-15 and 17 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicant has amended claim 6. Accordingly, claims 6-18 are pending for further consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chittipeddi et al. (US 5,972,179) in view of Kim (US 5,804,501). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 6, as amended, recites a method for forming a metal thin film of a semiconductor device, wherein “the PVD seed thin film and the CVD thin film are formed of the same material.” In contrast to Applicant’s claimed invention, Chittipeddi et al. discloses forming a Ti PVD seed thin film 15 and a TiN CVD thin film 16. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that Chittipeddi et al. fails to teach or suggest a PVD seed thin film and a CVD thin film are “formed of the same material,” as recited by independent claim 6, and hence dependent claims 7-18.

In addition, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action’s assertion that the layer 15 of Ti disclosed by Chittipeddi et al. is analogous to the “PVD seed thin film,” recited by independent claim 6. For example, since the Ti layer 15 disclosed by Chittipeddi et al. is a

deposited material, it cannot be considered a “seed layer.” Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Chittipeddi et al. fail to teach or suggest a “PVD seed thin film,” recited by independent claim 6.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully asserts that the Office Action does not rely on Kim to remedy the deficiencies of Chittipeddi et al. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that Kim cannot remedy the deficiencies of Chittipeddi et al.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6-18 are neither taught nor suggested by either Chittipeddi et al. and/or Kim, whether taken alone or in combination. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because the above-discussed novel combination of features are neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references.

Conclusion

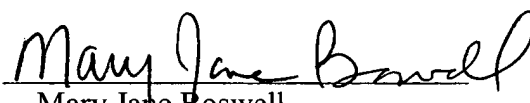
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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